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**Effective:** August 1, 1997

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**96.00 Utility Accommodation**  
**96.50 Construction Requirements****Supersedes:** April 1, 1995

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By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

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**A. Permit at Job Site**

When the Department issues a permit to a utility for its proposed work, a complete copy of the permit shall be in the possession of the utility's work force, consultant, contractor, or subcontractor, at all times when utility work is being performed within the right-of-way. This includes the Annual Service Connection Permit (see policy 96.12) when appropriate.

**B. Use of Highway Median**

Any use of a highway median is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a permit. See policy 96.24(B) for specific conditions that shall be met if median work is permitted.

**C. Use of Temporary Guard Poles**

No guard pole shall be set within the right-of-way unless specifically authorized by a permit. By definition, a guard pole is used to prevent aerial lines from falling onto the traveled way. Any guard poles permitted in the clear zone shall comply with policy 96.20(D).

**D. Unexpected Field Conditions**

Any modification of the terms of the approved permit to meet changed or unexpected field conditions shall require prior approval from the Department.

**E. Blasting**

Blasting on the right-of-way is prohibited unless specifically authorized by a permit.

**F. Survey Markers**

No Department survey marker (e.g. right-of-way marker, benchmark, etc.) shall be disturbed unless prior approval has been obtained from the Department. In addition, other survey markers (e.g. USGS, County, etc.) located in Department right-of-way shall not be disturbed unless prior approval is obtained from their owner(s).

Any Department survey marker that is disturbed, removed, or destroyed shall be restored by the Department at the expense of the permittee. (Reference: sec. 59.635 and 236.32, Stats.)

## **G. Vegetation**

No tree or shrub shall be sprayed, cut, trimmed, or damaged to facilitate the installation of a utility facility unless specifically authorized by a permit. Vegetation which is proposed to be damaged or destroyed may have to be replaced at the discretion of the Department. When the removal of a tree is permitted, the stump shall be removed and the hole properly backfilled or cut flush with the ground upon approval from the Department.

Utilities should be aware of rare or endangered plant species, or animal and insect species that feed off of native vegetation\*, in the right-of-way that must be protected or avoided by law. Utilities may receive assistance in identifying these areas by calling the local Department of Natural Resources office or the district utility permit coordinator.

\* For example, the Karner Blue Butterfly is currently an endangered species that feeds off the wild lupine plant.

## **H. Completion Notice**

Upon completion of permitted work and restorations, written notice shall be filed within 10 calendar days with the chief maintenance engineer of the transportation district indicated on the face of the permit.

## **I. Highway Signs**

A utility shall not remove any highway sign unless approved in its permit.